

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE
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FLOOR DEBATE

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LB 500

antique car parts to area swap meets. Unfortunately, they turned down my request for \$10,000 a month to hang around the statehouse and take senators to lunch to promote their cause. They claim that is more than they take in in a month--and that's of course, the connection to this particular amendment. The area ENAR already owns and occupies is much less than the 600-acre district proposed in Sarpy County. We would like to fully enclose the salvage yard and add heat and air conditioning to attract tourists all year round. As it is now, extreme summer heat and winter cold, not to mention rain, snow, and the occasional tornado, tend to restrict the crowds. We estimate these improvements alone would increase customer traffic three-to fourfold. The ability to expand hours into the evenings and weekends could easily double traffic again. We estimate this project would cost \$20 million in state and local tax revenue, and lodging tax revenue generated by the district to finance the construction. We would invest \$20 million and create at least 150 jobs retrieving and dismantling old cars, cleaning, cataloguing, and selling parts, ticket sales, and concessions. Think of the thousands of I-80 travelers who pass through the state daily. Many of these people have a soft spot for salvage yards. They can't drive by one without spending \$100 or more. An afternoon spent combing through piles of rusty parts is more entertaining to them than an evening at the opera. Believe it or not, many enthusiasts will drive much more than 300 miles to shop at a well-stocked salvage yard. The location in Cass County is less than an hour from both Interstate 80 and Interstate 29. Of course, all the additional traffic generated would require that the highways in the area be improved also. We would suggest making Highway 50 a four-lane from I-80 to US 34, and US 34 a four-lane from Lincoln to Highway 50. Developing this tourist attraction is certain to have a ripple effect. We can envision at least one motel and several chain restaurants locating in the immediate Cass County area to accommodate visitors. Many state officials and Nebraskans in general are unaware of the gold mine of old cars and trucks that exist in hedgerows and gullies of our state. Our goal is to mine this resource and export it...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.